

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04676 121231Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 INR-10 INRE-00

SP-02 IO-13 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2086

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4676

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMB EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH, US

SUBJECT: PHODESIA: PRESS TREATMENT OF ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE

1. STEVE LOW HAS ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS CONCERN OVER PRESS REPORTS IN SALISBURY WHICH HAVE REPORTED "US STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS" AS SAYING THAT THERE IS A "REAL POSSIBILITY" OF AN ALL PARTIES MEETING LATER THIS MONTH. THE ACCOUNTS SAY THE OFFICIALS STATE THERE ARE SOME "MISSING PIECES" STILL, I.E. THE ASSENT OF SMITH AND THE INTERNAL BLACK LEADERS, BUT THE CONFERENCE HAS A REAL CHANCE TO TAKE PLACE, SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF RHODESIA'S BORDERS, AND UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY VANCE AND OWEN.

2. LOW STATED THAT IN SALISBURY HE AND GRAHAM IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES, ARE SAYING THAT WE ARE CONTINUING THE SEARCH FOR AN ALL PARTIES MEETING; THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL BUT NO FIRM PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE. LOW AND GRAHAM ARE NOT COMMENTING ON WHEN OR WHERE THE CONFERENCE MIGHT BE HELD OR WHO MIGHT ATTEND. THEY ARE ALSO AVOIDING COMMENT ON THE CURRENT POSITIONS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED. LOW BELIEVES THAT IN THIS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TIME, COMMENTS BEYOND THIS
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POSITION COULD BE HIGHLY DAMAGING.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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